

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/079,414
Attorney Docket No. Q68653

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Harada et al (US 6,511,787).

Applicants submit herewith verified English translations of their priority documents Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2001-048784 (JP '784), 2001-157366 (JP '366) and 2001-157367 (JP '367) to obtain the benefit of their priority claim.

Harada et al was filed September 7, 2001, published April 25, 2002, and issued January 28, 2003. On the other hand, the present application was filed February 22, 2002, prior to the publication date, but after the filing date of Harada et al. Accordingly, Harada et al may be prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The priority dates of February 23, 2001 and May 25, 2001 of the present application are prior to the September 7, 2001 § 102(e) date of Harada et al. Accordingly, Harada et al is not prior art against the present claims. Support for present claims 1-10 in JP '784, JP '366 and JP '367 is summarized below:

Present Claim	JP '784	JP '366	JP '367
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4		4	4
5		1	

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6			1
7	1		
8	paragraph bridging pages 35-37	paragraph bridging pages 44-46	paragraph bridging pages 48-50
9	page 54 1st paragraph	page 63 1st paragraph	page 67 1st paragraph
10	paragraph bridging pages 37-39	paragraph bridging pages 46-48	paragraph bridging pages 50-52

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

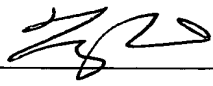
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 29, 2004